

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03309 071206Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NO IS

SUBJ: NORWEGIAN REACTION TO ISRAEL'S HOSTAGE RESCUE OPERATION

SUMMARY: NORWAY'S GOVERNMENT WELCOMED RESCUE OF THE ENTEBBE HOSTAGES AND THE FAILURE OF THE TERRORIST OPERATION, REITERATED NORWAY'S OPPOSITION TO ALL INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND PLEDGED ITSELF TO CONTINUED EFFORTS TOWARD INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON MEASURES TO STOP TERRORISM, BUT CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM ANY APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE ISRAELI OPERATION.
END SUMMARY

1. WITH BOTH PRIME MINISTER ODVAR NORDLI AND FOREIGN MINISTER AWAY, INDUSTRY MINISTER (AND ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER) BJARTMAR GJERDE AND FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY THORVALD STOLTENBERG RESPONDED TO REQUESTS FOR COMMENT ON ISRAEL'S RESCUE OF THE ENTEBBE HOSTAGES. STOLTENBERG RESPONDED TO PRESS QUERIES ON JULY 4 THAT HE WAS HAPPY SO MANY HOSTAGES WERE RESCUED BUT KNEW TOO LITTLE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO COMMENT FURTHER. LATER, ON THE RADIO, HE EMPHASIZED THAT NORWAY'S GOVERNMENT OPPOSED ALL INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS.

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PAGE 02 OSLO 03309 071206Z

2. IN HIS OFFICIAL COMMENT, PUBLISHED IN THE JULY 6
PRESS, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER BJARTMAR GJERDE SAID
THE FOLLOWING (EMBASSY TRANSLATION):
BEGIN TEXT

AS WAS EXPRESSED BY THE FOREIGN UNDER SECRETARY
YESTERDAY, WE ON THE NORWEGIAN SIDE ARE VERY HAPPY
THAT ALMOST ALL THE HOSTAGES WHO WERE HELD IN THE
ENTEBBE AIRPORT WERE RESCUED. AT THE SAME TIME AS
WE WISH THE SURVIVORS WELL, THE GOVERNMENT WISHES TO
EXPRESS ITS SYMPATHY WITH THE SURVIVORS OF THOSE WHO
LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE LIBERATION ACTION. THE
NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS CLEARLY REJECTED ALL
FORMS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND ATTACHES GREAT
IMPORTANCE TO THE FACT THAT THIS TERRORIST OPERATION
WITH INNOCENT PERSONS' LIVES DID NOT SUCCEED. THE
AIR HIGHJACKING AND HAPPENINGS AT THE ENTEBBE AIRPORT
UNDERLINE AGAIN HOW IMPORTANT IT IS THAT WORLD SOCIETY
REACH AGREEMENT ON COMMON MEASURES AGAINST INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM. NORWAY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TO CONTRIBUTE
TO SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WITHIN SUCH INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS AS THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE
COUNCIL OF EUROPE. IN THIS MATTER, NORWAY WILL MAIN-
TAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES.
END TEXT.
ANDERS

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